

Testimony of Sue Browne  
Michigan Blue Green Alliance Director

Energy and Technology Committee Hearing  
On  
Energy Efficiency  
And  
Renewable Portfolio Standard Legislation  
Chaired by Representative Frank Accavitti

Good Morning Chairman Accavitti and members of the committee. My name is Sue Browne and I am the Director of the Michigan Blue Green Alliance, a cooperative effort between the USW the Sierra Club.

Studies have shown that investments in renewable energy, such as a strong renewable energy standard will bring more jobs, a better economy, and a cleaner environment while helping to revitalize our manufacturing base here in Michigan.

Renewable energy is good for the environment and it is good for workers. It is a job creating tool and will create many jobs in wind and solar facilities, and other industries such as construction and steel.

A good example is in Pennsylvania because of their commitment to renewable energy, Gamesa a wind turbine manufacturer opened plants which now employ over 600 people in the wind industry and plan to expand to 1000 in the next five years. These are good paying USW jobs and this was done at the sit of a former steel mill whose doors had shut down, so a lot of people were able to go back to work in an area where they had suffered great job loss.

According to the University of Michigan economists, Michigan lost 336,000 manufacturing jobs from mid 2000-2006 and we are expected to lose another 33,000 in the next two years. This is the greatest stretch of employment loss in this state since the great depression.

Michigan is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the country in CO2 emissions and asthma is the leading cause of child hood hospitalization

The Blue Green Alliance feels that it is important for Michigan to show a strong commitment to renewable energy and we support a renewable energy standard of 20% by 2020.

It is our belief that renewable energy is a perfect example of how we can have both good jobs and a clean environment.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.